

## NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

February 10, 2014

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, February 10, 2014, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, and William Padien. Christopher Willi was not in attendance. Robert Hicks was also present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 27 and January 30, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the executive session minutes of the meetings held on January 27 and January 30, 2014, as written carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **Reports**

William Padien stated that Washington Trust needs School Committee approval to allow our Finance Director to access information on the various school accounts. It was suggested that this be placed on next month's agenda.

Ann Hall stated that the students are getting stuck when parking at the Faulkner lot. Mr. Hicks will speak with Mike Shea to see if this can be remedied.

Mrs. Hall inquired about next year's calendar and if it is done. The School Committee adopted the 2014-2015 calendar last summer.

Mr. Hicks stated that the Middletown school visit has been postponed until February 13, so he had no Futures report this month.

The average daily attendance (ADA) for the second quarter was 92.8 percent, bringing the ADA for the first half of the year to 92.4 percent. This compares to 93.1 percent for 2011-12 and 93.8 percent for 2012-13 and is within the variation typically seen. On Tuesday, November 26, the day before Thanksgiving break, attendance was 95.5 percent, which indicates continuing success for that specific schedule change.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the finance report through January 31, 2014, carried with a vote of 4-0.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Rhode Island Department of Education regarding the promotion of adolescent health through school-based HIV/STD prevention and school-based surveillance was submitted for School Committee review. The purpose of the memorandum is to inform all parties that RIDE and New Shoreham agree to work in collaboration throughout the duration of the program period. The purpose of the project is to enable the State and school

districts to build capacity and efforts to provide exemplary sexual health education, provide access to key sexual health services, create safe and supportive environments, as well as strengthen policy that supports those efforts on behalf of all school aged youth in Rhode Island. More details on how the grant will be expended will be available at future School Committee meetings.

### **Old Business**

According to School Committee Bylaws, policies require action by a majority of the School Committee at two successive regular meetings or a unanimous vote of all five members at a regular meeting. Policy ID: Extra-Curricular/Athletic Participation was presented for a second vote because only four members were present at last month's meeting. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy ID: Extra-Curricular/Athletic Participation as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to open the public hearing on the 2014-2015 budget carried with a vote of 4-0.

It was mentioned that there are still line items without solid numbers (healthcare costs, teachers' salaries), but the general consensus was to apply any additional funds that may show up to reduce our request to the town.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to close the public hearing carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to adopt the 2014-2015 budget as presented in the amount of \$4,816,760 carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **New Business**

A copy of the correspondence received from Marlee Lacoste expressing her intent to retire at the end of the current school year was submitted for review. A motion (Hall, Connor) to accept the notice of intent to retire from Marlee Lacoste with regret carried with a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Hicks addressed questions from the audience regarding the need to have more of a writing/language focus in the middle grades. He has been discussing possible changes with Mrs. Monje and will include the middle grades structure on a future agenda.

The annual enrollment projections from NESDEC, a regional organization supporting New England school districts, were submitted for School Committee review. The report indicates an expectation that actual enrollments are likely to be higher than projections due to several factors, including an improving housing market and steady births. A critical data point will be the fluctuating birth to K ratio.

### **Calendar of Events**

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 17.

### **Correspondence**

Several pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information.

**Executive Session**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 4-0.

**Open Session**

A motion (Padien, Hall) to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 4-0.

**Adjournment**

A motion (Padien, Doyle) at 8:00 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Elizabeth Connor, Secretary

Date approved: March 17, 2014